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**From:** Wensinger, Arthur <[REDACTED]@n.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 03, 2015 2:34 PM  
**To:** AppTestimony  
**Cc:** Sen. Linares, Art; Rep. Miller, Philip; mschlag@haddam.org  
**Subject:** ECS grant formula

**TO: Honorable Sen. Beth Bye and Rep. Toni Walker,  
And the Members of the Appropriations Committee**

Testimony in **FAVOR** of SB816

*An Act Establishing a Minimum Level of Funding Under the Education Cost Sharing Grant Formula*

Thursday, April 2, 2015

Dear Members:

Yes, this is a form letter as you can quickly determine. However, it says exactly what I should like to convey to you. I have been a citizen of this town for a half century and am entirely in sympathy with the sentiments and facts expressed below.

Please do take this to heart and do all you can to rectify oversights and wrongs and equalize our town's situation at least to the average funding of other comparable towns in the State. We in Haddam do not receive "our fair share" and have not done so for many years. We look to you to act on our behalf. Thanks for your earnest and fair-minded consideration.

- A fair and equitable education is our duty and one of our most important responsibilities.
- Haddam is the **tenth most underfunded** ECS town (at 42%) of all 169 municipalities.
- 19 towns funded below 50% of their fair share.
- These communities must either raise more tax revenue or go without.
- When Connecticut Yankee Nuclear Power Plant closed our grand list dropped dramatically. The formula was never adjusted for this drastic change.
- The ECS formula was created to make education fair and equitable for all but presently it does the opposite by pitting municipalities against one another.
- The inequitable formula creates winners and losers from a formula that was intended to do the opposite.
- Haddam can't compete for local businesses with a higher mill rate due to our underfunding at half of what our neighboring communities are funded.
- **Seniors:** without children in the school system anymore, you understand you need to contribute to the next generation, but contributing more than seniors in neighboring communities is not fair to those on a fixed income. I particularly endorse this.

- SB816 is a first step in fixing the funding formula for all communities throughout the state but will most directly impact Haddam.

Sincerely, and with cordial regards,

Arthur S. Wensinger  
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Professor *emeritus*, Wesleyan University